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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 19662 221152Z

20
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 071211
O 221144Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3451

S E C R E T AMEMBASSY BONN 19662

NODIS

FOR SONNENFELDT FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR
SUBJECT: MBFR - FRENCH DATA PROBLEM

REF: STATE 285828

1. I CALLED VAN WELL THIS MORNING AND CONVEYED YOUR CONCERN ABOUT WHO SHOULD APPROACH THE FRENCH, NOTING YOUR VIEW THAT A PRESENTATION BY THE GERMANS WOULD CARRY THE MOST WEIGHT.

2. VAN WELL RECALLED THE PREVIOUS CONTACTS BY THE BELGIANS WITH FRENCH, INSTIGATED BY DAVIGNON, AND SAID DE LABOULAYE HAD ALREADY INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO CONTINUING SUCH EXCHANGES WITH THE BELGIANS. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, VAN WELL FEELS IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE THE BELGIANS MAKE THE APPROACH TO THE FRENCH; THIS WOULD GIVE GREATER CREDIBILITY TO THE IDEA THAT THE APPROACH DEALS WITH A TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEM, WHEREAS IF THE GERMANS WERE TO TAKE OVER IT WOULD BE SEEN AS RAISING THINGS TO A MORE POLITICAL LEVEL.

3. VAN WELL HOPED THE APPROACH COULD BE MADE TO THE FRENCH TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY. HE NOTED THAT GUIRINGAUD WILL BE IN BONN ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 FOR REGULAR
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FRENCH-FRG CONSULTATIONS WITH GENSCHER, AND THAT LATTER

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WOULD TAKE OCCASION TO BACK UP THE MBFR APPROACH IF THAT SEEMED APPROPRIATE.

4. ALTHOUGH I REITERATED YOUR VIEWS ABOUT PREFERENCE FOR GERMAN APPROACH, VAN WELL SEEMS DUG IN ON ABOVE LINES. I TOLD HIM I WOULD PASS THIS BACK TO YOU AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH IF YOU HAD FURTHER VIEWS. SINCE FRENCH PRESUMABLY WONT-REPLY IMMEDIATELY TO APPROACH, PERHAPS TWO-STAGE TACTIC OF BELGIANS GOING FIRST FOLLOWED BY SUPPORT FROM GENSCHER WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE.
STOESSEL

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